

## **Home Improvement Project**

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Recently, my wife and I took a few days leave and made a few improvements to our retirement home. We are trying to get it all ready so that everything will be the way we want it when I retire at the end of next year. We had a list of things we wanted to get done. A few other things came up that needed immediate attention, as well. We worked hard on all of it and got all of it done except for one major project. We still want to replace the wallpaper in the “war room,” but everything we had on the list for this trip got done. We will move the wallpaper project to the list for the next trip.

The result of all of our hard work is that we have taken a house that looked beautiful to start with and we have improved upon it. It looks even better now. We have done a little bit along that transformed it into even more of what we wanted. I suppose that the project will never end, but we love seeing the changes taking place to it.

The interesting thing about the house is, it doesn’t tell you anything about the family that lives inside of it. It may tell you about whether or not they enjoy yard work or landscaping, but it doesn’t tell you about the people. It may show some of their interests, but it doesn’t tell you about their relationships.

I have learned over the years that the appearance of the house does not always reflect the condition of the relationships of the people living there. Many times, we can use working on the building as a means to escape from working on the relationship. Sometimes, either we are afraid to face some of the ways we relate to others. Other times, we simply do not know what to do. Regardless, the result may be that we have a beautiful structure that houses a family that is falling apart.

One thing that I appreciate about the home improvement stores is that they have professionals working there who can help you with any project. When my father and I wanted to re-tile his kitchen, we went to the store and they told us what we would need, explained the process, even loaned us a video. We then undertook the project and we did a good job. They have people who can help you, regardless of your skill level. They will readily tell you when a project will be too advanced for you and get you in touch with someone who is a professional who can help you complete the project. Other jobs are fine, even for a novice.

Families are the same way. Sometimes, problems arise in our families and we need to fix them. Since skill levels vary, sometimes we need to go to someone who can help us assess whether we will be able to just take some tools and make the repairs ourselves, or whether it is necessary to bring a professional in to help us through the process. Regardless, there are people who can help you get the job done. We just have to ask for assistance.

I hope your home is in good shape. If not, stop by and let me help you assess what level of assistance we need to get for you. Regardless, we have plenty of resources available to you, regardless of your skill level.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.